Deviations from Rules for S.S. Bhatnagar Awards

1152. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports concerning deviations from normal rules for the S.S. Bhatnagar Awards announced for this year;

(b) whether the matter has been enquired into; and

(c) in case, such an enquiry has already substantiated the allegations the measures proposed to avoid repetition of similar incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER's OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) A report had appeared in the press expressing concern that the S.S. Bhatnagar Prize for the year 1995 in Physical Sciences was awarded in violation of the laid down eligibility condition which stipulated that the prize be awarded on the basis of contributions made primarily for work done in India during the 5 years preceding the year of prize. The matter has been gone into and it is observed that in Science (particularly in theoretical work, as was the case this year), it takes a while before the impact of the work is felt. Since scientific research is a continuous activity, it becomes imperative for the High-Powered Committees to give weightage to the work done prior to the specified period also to assess the overall impact of the work. Considering the fact that the eligibility condition stipulates the award to be given for the work done primarily during the past five years but not essentially or exclusively for that period, the High-Powered Committee, therefore, used its discretion this time, but adopted quality and excellence as the sole criteria while making recommendations.

However, as a special measure and also to bring in more clarity, the stipulations for the award of Bhatnagar Prizes would be clearly spelt out to the Chairmen of the High-Powered Committees by a special briefing by the Director-General, CSIR, in future.

Amendment of Rules made under IRCS Act

1153. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to amend the rules made under section five of the IRCS Act describing the procedure for election of 12 members from State branches through an electoral college;

(b) the steps taken to amend the rules to remove anomalies and contradictions and to ensure that the rights of all the State/UT branches to have direct representation in the National Managing Body is restored before reconstitution of the Managing Body; and

(c) the steps taken to amend rules to remove inequalities in matters of grouping of States, UTs in four regions for the purpose of election of three members from each region?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) According to the information received from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), its Managing Body, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section five of the IRCS Act and with the approval of the President of the Society, has framed the Indian Red Cross Society—(Constitution of Managing Body) Rules, 1992. There is no proposal, at present, to amend the said Rules.

(b) According to the information received from IRCS, its Managing Body has been reconstituted in accordance with the said Rules. As prescribed